REMARKS

Claims 1-38 were pending.

Claims 1-4, 7-20, 23-28, and 30-38 are amended. Claims 5 and 21-22 are canceled. Claims 39-45 have been added. Claim 29 remains unchanged. Therefore, upon entry of this amendment, the pending claims are Claims 1-4, 7-20, 23-38, along with new Claims 39-45.

THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1 and 19 have been amended to delete reference to "random aggregates." Support therefor can be found, for example, in paragraph [0013] on page 3, which describes the solid porous matrix in general terms, and in paragraph [0169] on page 59, which describes the random aggregates as being part of a preferred embodiment.

Claim 1 has also been amended to recite a surfactant rather than a *polysorbate* surfactant. Support therefor can be found, for example, in paragraph [0013] on page 3, which describes the surfactant in general terms, and in paragraph [0081] on page 20, which describes polysorbates as being preferred sorbitan fatty acid ester surfactants.

Claim 6 has been amended to depend from Claim 4 since Claim 5 is now canceled. Due to the change in dependency, Claim 6 has been amended to refer to a *resuspending* medium rather than to an *aqueous* medium, so as to be consistent with the terminology of Claim 4.

Claim 30 has been amended to recite a group of surfactants. Support for this listing is as follows: nonionic surfactants are described in paragraph [0074] on page 17 and in paragraph [0080] on page 20; lipids are described in paragraph [0027] on page 5 and in [0074] on page 17; oils are described in paragraphs [0074-0075] on page 17; proteins and polypeptides are described in paragraph [0077] on page 18; polysaccharides, sugars, polymers, and acrylates are described in paragraph [0078] on pages 18-20.

Claim 31 has been amended to recite a group of polymer surfactants. Support for this listing is as follows: polyglutamic acid and polylysine are noted in paragraph [0077] on page 18; and polyphosphazene, polyethyleneglycol, polyvinylalcohol, polypropyleneglycol, polylactic acid, poly (ϵ-caprolactone), polylactide co-glycolide, and polyethylene-polypropyleneglycol are noted in paragraph [0078] on pages 18-20.

New Claim 39 recites microvoids comprising a gas. Microvoids are described in paragraph [0019] on page 4. The inclusion of gases in the matrix is described, for example, in paragraph [0147] on page 50.

New Claim 40 recites a groups of gases. Support for these gases can be found, for example, in paragraph [0148] on page 51.

New Claim 43 recites a composition in a dried state, which is rehydrated with an aqueous solution. Support therefor can be found, for example, in paragraph [0237] on page 82.

New Claims 41 and 44 recite a group of surfactants, Support can be found throughout the Specification, as noted above with regard to Claim 30. New Claims 42 and 45 recite a group of polymer surfactants, Support can be found throughout the Specification, as noted above with regard to Claim 31.

The claims have also been amended to correct typographical errors.

The cancellation of claims and/or the amendment of pending claims should not be construed as an abandonment of any originally claimed subject matter. Accordingly, the cancellation of claims or amendments herein is without prejudice to further prosecution in a continuation, continuation-in-part, divisional or other related application. No new matter has been added.

SUMMARY

The above amendments to the Claims are submitted for the purpose of facilitating allowance of the Claims and a sincere effort has been made to place this application in condition for allowance. An early notice of allowance is earnestly requested.

If in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (650) 330-0900.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _Shelley Eberle_

Shelley P. Eberle
Registration No. 31,411

REED & EBERLE LLP
800 Menlo Avenue, Suite 210
Menlo Park, California 94025
(650) 330-0900 Telephone
(650) 330-0980 Facsimile
f:\document\5030\0003\01\amend-preliminary.doc